

Remarks

The examiner's reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments above and comments which follow.

Taking the matters raised by the examiner in turn, it is unfortunate that the items identified on the IDS have apparently been misplaced. As the examiner has requested, those five items are attached hereto for consideration.

In numbered paragraph 1 (second occurrence) on page 2 of the office action, the examiner has rejected claims 17 - 19 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The examiner suggests amendment of the claims, and claims 17 through 19 have been amended as the examiner has proposed. It is therefore submitted that the claims are appropriate and should be considered.

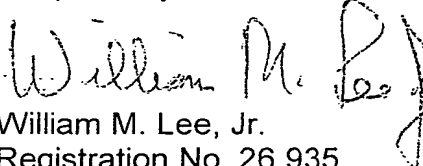
In numbered sections 3 through 6 on pages 3 and 4 of the office action, the examiner has rejected claims 9 - 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Dudziak U.S. Patent Number 6,470,032. In numbered sections 8 through 24 spanning pages 4 through 11 of the office action, the examiner has rejected the remaining claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over the prior art, again with Dudziak being the primary reference. Reconsideration is requested.

Dudziak is not an appropriate reference. The effective date of Dudziak as a reference is March 20, 2001, the application filing date. However, the filing date of the present application is March 31, 2000, almost a year prior. Therefore, Dudziak is an ineffective reference, and it is submitted that the claims, as cast and amended above, are allowable thereover.

Given the above and given the fact that no other rejections of the claims have been raised by the examiner, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and the examiner's further and favorable reconsideration in that regard is urged.

August 25, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", written in dark ink.

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